## Utah Department of Transportation Utah Transportation Commission Roosevelt & Vernal Area Tour June 12, 2014

The tour departed at 12:00 p.m. from the Best Western Landmark Inn in Roosevelt. The bus traveled to the Roosevelt Airport to pick up plane passengers. There was a short presentation and discussion regarding the airport's operations, their needs, and the upcoming expansion project. On the bus, handouts were distributed and Teri Newell welcomed the group and gave an overview of the tour. The bus traveled west on US 40 to SR-191 in Duchesne. The bus pulled off the road for a short discussion by John Thomas regarding the potential rail line alternatives that are being studied. He shared additional information regarding the Indian Canyon alternative, including potential costs, and said they are starting the environmental process. The bus traveled south on US-191. Ms. Newell talked about Level 2 roads and the 16 mile chip seal project on US-191 that is starting next week. The bus stopped for another discussion by Mr. Thomas regarding the rail line's alternative alignment and to view the location of a potential tunnel portal for a 10 mile tunnel that would be built for the rail line. The bus turned around and traveled north to US-40 in Duchesne. While traveling east on US-40, Craig Hancock mentioned the Myton Bench project that is currently in design to extend the westbound passing lane and add a center turning lane. He then talked about a project at 2000/3000 South in Roosevelt that is a local collaboration project for a signal to be installed and to improve the intersection and fix drainage issues. There was a short rest stop at this point.

The bus traveled on State Street in Roosevelt, then to US-40. Ms. Newell pointed out the new signal that was activated last week. She also explained the sidewalk spalling issues they are dealing with in Roosevelt, and trying to decide what to do about it. Mr. Hancock pointed out a section of US-40 in Ballard that was completed last year, expanding it to three lanes. He noted that the Basin is experiencing tremendous growth, and therefore road capacity issues are increasing. Ms. Newell talked about an Orange Book project in Gusher and shared information on "The Twists" project, as the bus drove through the construction zone. She also talked about rural to urban roadway transitions, speed limit changes, and the proper time to slow down traffic to anticipate traffic signals. In Vernal, the bus turned on to 500 South and Bret Reynolds from Civco talked about the local government project that was just completed on 500 South. The bus then traveled to the Vernal airport, where there was another short presentation by the airport manager regarding the upcoming airport project that would be done in three phases.

The bus traveled back to US-40 and eastbound through Naples City. Ms. Newell discussed a micro surfacing project from SR-45 to Jensen, as well as some safety issues that need to be addressed, most notably where the roadway transitions from five lanes to two lanes and cars are turning left on the two lane sections. The bus turned around at the location where the Ashley Valley Energy Route ties into US-40. It was mentioned that work on the east side of the route would start this summer, with regular construction starting next summer. The bus traveled west on US-40 back to Ballard. Ms. Newell made note of the increasing traffic volume on US-40 between Roosevelt and Vernal, especially at the SR-88 intersection, and reiterated the challenges of the two lane roadway sections. The bus returned to the Best Western Landmark Inn and the tour ended at 5:18 p.m.

The following Commissioners, UDOT staff, and others attended the tour: Meghan Holbrook, Wayne Barlow, Naghi Zeenati, Gayle McKeachnie, LeAnn Abegglen, Carlos Braceras, Cory Pope, Bill Lawrence, Robert Pelly, Nile Easton, Elizabeth Weight, Pat Morley, Teri Newell, Eileen Barron, Craig Hancock, Ervan Rhoades, John Thomas, Ivan Marrero, Senator Kevin Van Tassell, Bret Reynolds, Joe Wolley, Jamie Evans, Jim Evans.

LeAnn Abegglen, Commission Secretary